



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Community Planning & Physical Services Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314
January 16, 2019, 8:00 AM

Minutes

In attendance: Ben Wenograd (Chair), Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan (phone), Liam Sweeney (phone), Matt Hart, John Phillips, Mark McGovern, Duane Martin, Emily Hultquist (Capitol Region Council of Governments) and members of the public.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Wenograd called the meeting to order at 8:00AM. In order to keep the meeting on schedule, he stated that he'd like to conclude the North Main Street discussion no later than 8:30 AM.

2. **Business Items:**

- a. **North Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation and Road Diet Consideration:**
Matt Hart provided a response to the committee and staff updates since the last CPPS meeting. Staff was directed to further evaluate the feasibility of a lane reduction during the bridge project. They were also asked to contact other cities, namely Alexandria, VA, to learn about that community's experience with such projects.
Although staff was unable to contact Alexandria, VA, they did speak with Arlington, VA on how such a project worked in their community. Their road diet was conducted using internal staff and included 13 public hearings over 3 years. Staff also spoke with a West Hartford resident to discuss other thoughts and ideas related to a road diet project.

Matt Hart stated the concerns presented at the December meeting are still present with regard to conducting the trial and bridge project concurrently. He presented a recommendation to the committee to conduct the trial after the bridge study is complete.

Emily Hultquist of CRCOG offered insight into her experience with road diets and complete streets. She focused her comments on demonstration examples. CRCOG does have some funding available for cities and towns interested in participating.

Engineering is hoping to receive a Commitment to Fund letter from CT Department of Transportation soon so it can start the construction of the bridge in the spring of 2019. The bridge project is expected to take 18

months and could be completed by fall of 2020. The road diet would take place for 4 to 6 months after the completion of the bridge project, depending on factors such as the weather. The Town would engage an outside engineering firm for the project.

Duane Martin discussed the scope of services, timeline, and expectations of the consulting firm. The cost is estimated at \$314,000 and would be included in the second year of the FY2019/2020 CIP fund.

The committee asked about the benefits of conducting the study and the process by which trial outcomes will be evaluated. Staff responded.

Regarding next steps, the committee, by consensus, supports including the recommended trial in the proposed capital budget (CIP). The Council as a whole will vote on the CIP.

- b. **Addendum to SMART Program Proposal:** John Phillips provided this update to the committee. The region is facing a waste management issue currently and solutions are needed. In June of 2018, the committee received a memorandum outlining a pilot program to Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART). Staff was asked to provide other options and recommendations. He highlighted the goals for waste management and detailed five options for the committee to consider (SMART; Waste Reduction; Bi-Weekly Yard Waste Collection; Franchise Waste Management; and Status Quo).

The committee would like to see the financial impact of each of the options and agreed to send this item to the Finance Budget and Personnel committee for their review and endorsement prior to taking a vote. John Phillips also briefed the committee on issues at MIRA, based on recent news articles. The Town ended the relationship based on uncertainties and unclear direction. MIRA sets the market and their crisis may impact future contracts for the Town.

3. Communications:

- a. The committee received minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting.

4. Staff Reports:

Mark McGovern reported that the next series of POCD Thematic meetings have been scheduled. He will forward the meeting dates to the full council.

In the interest of time, there were no other staff reports.

- 5. **Adjournment:** Chairman Wenograd adjourned the meeting at 9:04 AM.